

GLENDENE CC 1921 – 1996

On 6 December 1921, the Glendene Cycling Club was founded by ten enthusiasts at 269 Monega Road, East Ham, the home of Mr E J Moran, who was elected President.

The Club soon began to win acclaim in the racing world. In 1923-4 Ernie Haley won the Eastern Counties Championship with the Club winning the Counties 50-mile Team Championship. The latter Championship gained the Glendene its first notch on the Sid Bailey Bowl, later won outright following further wins in 1924 and 1928; this trophy is now awarded for the season's best 12-hour performance. Numerous individual and team successes led to the Glendene CC being described in Cycling in 1924 as 'the nursery of budding speedmen'.

In 1925, W B (Bill) Temme startled the cycling world by winning the North Road Memorial '50', an invitation event limited to the best twelve 50-milers in the country, from Frank Southall and Andy Wilson; Bill also won this Classic in 1926. The Glendene was established at the top. Temme's prowess is legend: his great win in the Hovis '100' at Herne Hill, an event from which Southall was forced to retire; his victory in the Bath Road '100' (The Blue Riband); his National Competition records at 100 miles (4-44-48, including two punctures and a bike-change) and over 30 miles on the tandem with Bob Harris (1-9-00).

W B T represented England in the World Championship Road Races of 1925 and 1926. Apart from Bill, the Glendene had many prominent riders gaining awards, Messrs Sarluis, Bailey and Drayton to mention but a few. Bob Harris, also acknowledged as a contender for first-class honours, first appeared as a prizewinner in 1928 and, while Bill Temme was hospitalised, Bob kept the Glendene name to the fore and in 1929 broke the ECRRA London-Cambridge and 100-mile road records. He continued winning until he lost an arm at work but, courageously, he came back to produce some great rides before his untimely death in 1961.

At the outbreak of war Ted Walker, as General Secretary, and Bill Temme kept the Club going and through their efforts the Glendene not only survived, but started to climb back to the top. Tom Brewer shone as a roadman and in 1948 was voted the most outstanding rider in London.

A lean spell ensued from 1950, but the mid-sixties saw the beginning of a new boom. In 1965, Brian Camfield became the first Glendener 'inside the hour', before going on to win the Essex Junior '25' Championship with 58-10 and then take 5th place in the National Junior Championship (58-34). The Club's list of Essex Champions from that era is impressive: 1966 – Colin Mannakee (Senior Sprint and Half-mile Scratch); 1967 – Dave Simons (Junior Road Race); 1967 – John Nicholls (Junior '25', 58-59); 1967 – Graham Read, Graham Adams and Colin Mannakee (25-mile Team Champions, 3-1-31). Colin also formed part of the Essex Squad which swept to 5th place in the National Team Pursuit Championship of 1966. In 1967 Graham Adams broke the ECRRA Straight-Out 25-mile record with a superlative 51-49, a standard that remained unbeaten for several years. Another milestone was reached in 1969 when Colin Mannakee became the first Glendene man 'inside two hours' at 50 miles, clocking 1-58-16, still the Club record; Colin's 100 mile record (4-14-17), which placed him 14th in the National Championship of the same year, also remains unbeaten, likewise his 12 hour (244.246 miles) and the excellent 24 hour record of 434.125 miles set in 1966 by Derek Porter, our greatest exponent of all-day riding. Another great rider to emerge from the sixties boom was John Rowlands who, but for a near-fatal accident, would almost certainly have attained International status as a roadman. The Glendene were turning more towards road racing generally and successes were many, with Brian Camfield, Colin Mannakee, Graham Read, Dave Simons and Lindsay Franklin all being selected for Essex. Radical changes affecting the whole membership were also noted. In 1966, after 45 years of royal blue and silver, the Club's colours were changed to blue with red, white and black contrasts, whilst in 1968 the doors were opened to lady members for the first time!

Through the seventies some new names hit the racing headlines, notably Graham Ropley (Essex Junior Road Race Champion and one time junior and senior 10-mile record-holder with 22-49 and 21-52, respectively), Ron Self (3rd in the Essex Senior Road Championship 1973), Mark Newbury (5th in the Essex Junior Road Race Championship 1978) and Andy Goll (3rd in the Essex Junior Pursuit 1975 and the 30-mile record-holder with 1-10-35, 1978). The old hands were not inactive either! In 1975 Graham Adams set seven new tricycle records whilst in 1977 Colin Mannakee, already the most prolific winner ever of Club trophies, came out of retirement to carry off another nine titles and finish in the placings of 15 open road races. John Rowlands

was another roadman who came back, and with what style! By 1978 he was feared wherever he rode and during that year he was placed no less than 38 times in open competition. John was a clear winner of the season-long Eastway League and ran away with the Club's Road Race Championship accumulating a massive 254 points, probably an all-time record!

The eighties began well with Phil Thomerson coming 6th in the Essex Junior Road Race Championship (1980), Julian Davison clocking an impressive 56-58 to break both our junior and senior 25 mile records (1982) and top schoolboys, Richard Pugh and Tim Turner, winning the English Schools CA Home Counties Over-15 and Under-13 Circuit Race Championships, respectively (1983). In 1984 Tim scored 35 track wins, including the Essex Championship, and secured the first of two consecutive successes in the Essex Schoolboys Road Race Championship (both Glendene promotions); he also won the ESCA National Hill Climb Championship in a short, glittering career before emigrating with his family to Australia.

This 'loss' heralded, in 1985, an unprecedented low in the Club's fortunes with just six paid-up members on the books, prompting our Treasurer (Colin Mannakee) to mount his 'Fight for Survival' campaign: as a result, a dozen or so stalwarts sent some £170 in emergency donations to enable the Club to keep going and, thankfully, it did. In 1987, Ernie Moss reinstated the Glendene Open 25 on the famous £1 course at Quendon: despite our low membership, two upcoming riders, Neil Robertson and Brian Fleming, filled 3rd and 4th places and led our team to 2nd prize, all to Ernie's and the Club's joy. Regrettably though, we later lost both these emerging talents to sponsored clubs; Brian went on to become one of London's top professionals, a status he still holds, although he and Neil have maintained links with the Glendene through 2nd claim membership.

The hoped-for revival finally began in the nineties, led by a handful of true enthusiasts and, initially, two outstanding racers, youthful Matthew Mannakee and, after some 14 years in retirement, his father Colin. In 1991 Matthew won the points race series in the Harlow Track League and finished as 2nd junior overall; he also won the first of many races at London's Eastway Cycle Circuit while Colin took two 2nd places in town centre criteriums and the bronze medal in the Essex Veterans Road Race Championship. 1992 saw former Glendeners flocking back to the fold and the welcome recruitment of a stream of new members, including four lady riders; our mission was to become a proper family club, offering all aspects of leisure riding as well as racing. Matthew Mannakee went from strength to strength with a dozen top six placings and victory in the London Junior Criterium Championship, following which he became the first Glendener to be selected for the Eastern England Centre of Excellence squad. Club records began to fall again, after a decade of stagnation, thanks to Matthew, Colin and Barry Robertson, another star of the sixties.

By 1993, the Club's pool of workers had expanded with notable contributions from Dave Baxter, Dave Bristow, Michael Fry, John Jarvis, Richard Kirkwood, Peter Little, Colin and Lesley Mannakee, Ernie Moss, Richard Pugh, Robert Wallis and Martin Winward. A new Club Headquarters was established at Navestock Side, high quality Club Magazines were produced (as was the first Club Handbook since 1986) and, to everyone's credit, our racing successes mushroomed. Matthew Mannakee scored 13 open wins in time trials, road and track races and celebrated overall victories in the Eastway Junior League Championship and both the Eastern Counties Junior Road and Track Championships; he also came 3rd in the Essex Championship and broke eight club time trial records, the junior and senior 10 (21-24) and the 25 (56-53) among them. Andy Goll continued a brief comeback to get under the hour again and come 6th in the Club's 'Hell of the Ends' road race, while former member Brian Fleming won our own Bill Temme Memorial Criterium at Eastway. Reece Fuller became the first Glendener to ride from Land's End to John O'Groats and with his work colleagues raised over £100,000 for a children's charity. The Anniversary Clubrun in December attracted 32 members, all on their bikes. The Glendene was a major force once more.

In 1994 life membership was conferred on Dave Baxter and John Jarvis for outstanding service over some thirty years.

Racing prowess was maintained, Colin winning a Midlands' road race on his 48th birthday, Matthew coming 2nd in the Essex Track Championship, new member Steve Smith finishing 3rd in the Maltese International Triathlon and Paul Matthams taking 4th in the Essex Junior Road Race Championship; in Club events talented Dan Fentiman won our first-ever Mountain Bike Race promoted by John Jarvis and Richard Kirkwood.

In 1995 Matthew Mannakee, on vacation from university, came 1st on the 1st Stage and 2nd on the 2nd Stage to win the March Hare 2-day Race for the Essex Team, with new member Owen

Chapple the next Essex counter in 8th place; David Wright, Matthew's co-leader, crashed out but later joined the Glendene and has since ridden brilliantly for us. Owen Chapple won a bronze medal in the Eastern England Junior Road Race Championship (also the Essex section) and became our second rider to gain Centre of Excellence selection: riding for the Centre Team in the Junior Tour of Wales, Owen placed 5th on Stage 2. Worldrated triathlete Steve Smith came 4th in the Australian Ironman, Gary Edwards (our former National Track Squad rider) scored several wins at Welwyn Track and inspired the Club to start fielding a regular team in the track league there, while Colin Mannakee rounded his season off with the bronze medal in the National Veterans Criterium Championship for his age group. Other Glendeners to shine were Darryl Leese (58-56) and Barry Robertson, our first veteran under the hour (59-38); they and Owen Chapple (59-19) shared the special tankard for new riders 'to get inside'.

And so to 1996. It too was a very good year for us. Pride of place goes to Gary Edwards with two 4ths and a 5th in the World Masters Track Championships at Manchester. Gary, riding in the 30-34 years age group, came 4th in the Sprint, 4th in the 3-man Olympic Sprint (teamed with 2nd claim member Trevor Maddern, a man whose enthusiasm has helped the Glendene grow significantly again) and 5th in the Kilometre where he set a new Club Indoor Record of 1-13.1. David Wright won two road races and then turned his attention to time trialling, breaking the 25 record an amazing four times to reduce it to 54-23 and also helping Chris Broadway and Barry Robertson to break the 25 team record which had stood since 1968. Chris, Barry and Colin Mannakee each set new individual veterans records as well. On the track, the Glendene finished runners-up in the Welwyn Olympic Sprint Series while on the road they were silver medallists in the season-long Essex Road Race League. Brian Fleming won the Eastway Senior League, Steve Webb the 3rd Category Championship and Colin Mannakee the Veterans Championship. Colin and Chris Broadway came 3rd and 5th in the Essex Veterans Championship, while Owen Chapple's ride of the year was for 6th place in the Essex Senior Road Race Championship, our highest finishing position for decades. Paul Matthams scored his first wins ever in open track competition, despite university duties, while Mike Fry, Mark Goodridge and Phil Whitehorn also gained open awards in time trials. Our latest schoolboy prospect, Ross Braithwaite, won the bronze medal in the Essex Road Race Championship and finished 6th in the London East heat of the National Schoolboys 10.

Since its inception, the Club has been blessed with numerous competent officials. Over the last thirty years, an enviable reputation has been established through the Glendene's open promotions thanks to the efforts of a succession of high calibre organisers, including Graham Campbell, John Christie, Andy Goll, Peter Little, Colin Mannakee, Ernie Moss, Richard Pugh, John Rowlands, Neil Robertson, Robert Wallis, Brian Weaver, Martin Winward and Jon Wright. As a result, we have been selected by the Road Time Trials Council to host the 1998 National 10 Miles Championship, a most exciting prospect. Darryl Leese, one of our newer members who has already excelled as Time Trial Secretary, heads the organisational committee for this, our first National; he is also running a pilot 10 miles event on the same course (near Stumps Cross) in May this year, support for which would be appreciated.

The Glendene now offers one of the most extensive programmes of activities among Essex cycling clubs, including its own circuit training classes, coaching weekends, indoor track training, an annual track championship, an ambitious range of touring weekends and longer holidays, both in the UK and abroad, regular Sunday clubruns, mountain biking and, through Tony Whale's recent influence, Audax-style events. We also provide facilities second to none for our members, especially in the field of catering now led by Jenny Broadway and Liz Whale and the organisation of Monday Clubnights at our Navestock HQ where Dave Baxter, as Clubroom Manager, has developed an efficient refreshments rota and fee collection system.

Social activities continue to flourish, our traditional events now being supplemented by new ventures such as Quiz Nights, Cycle Jumbles and a certain amount of charitable fund raising. This 75th Anniversary Dinner and Dance marks the swansong of joint organisers Lesley Mannakee (who, in 1978, became our first-ever lady Social Secretary) and John Jarvis: between them, they have put together many very enjoyable evenings for the Club and its friends, for which we are most grateful.

The Glendene Cycling Club, despite a few low periods in its history, has remained steadfast for seventy five years. With membership levels now above one hundred for the first time and new people coming forward to fill important committee positions, the Club can surely anticipate, with some confidence, further glory in the years ahead.